Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 1986 - 87

Saskatchewan Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat

for the fiscal year ending
March 31, 1987

Minister
The Honourable Grant Schmidt

Saskatchewan
Indian and Native Affairs
Secretariat

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Letters of Transmittal

The Honourable F. W. Johnson
Lieutenant Governor
Province of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour

I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1987.

Grant Schmidt
Minister of Human Resources,
Labour and Employment

The Honourable Grant Schmidt
Minister of Human Resources,
Labour and Employment

Dear Sir

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat for the year ending March 31, 1987..

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Richards
Deputy Minister

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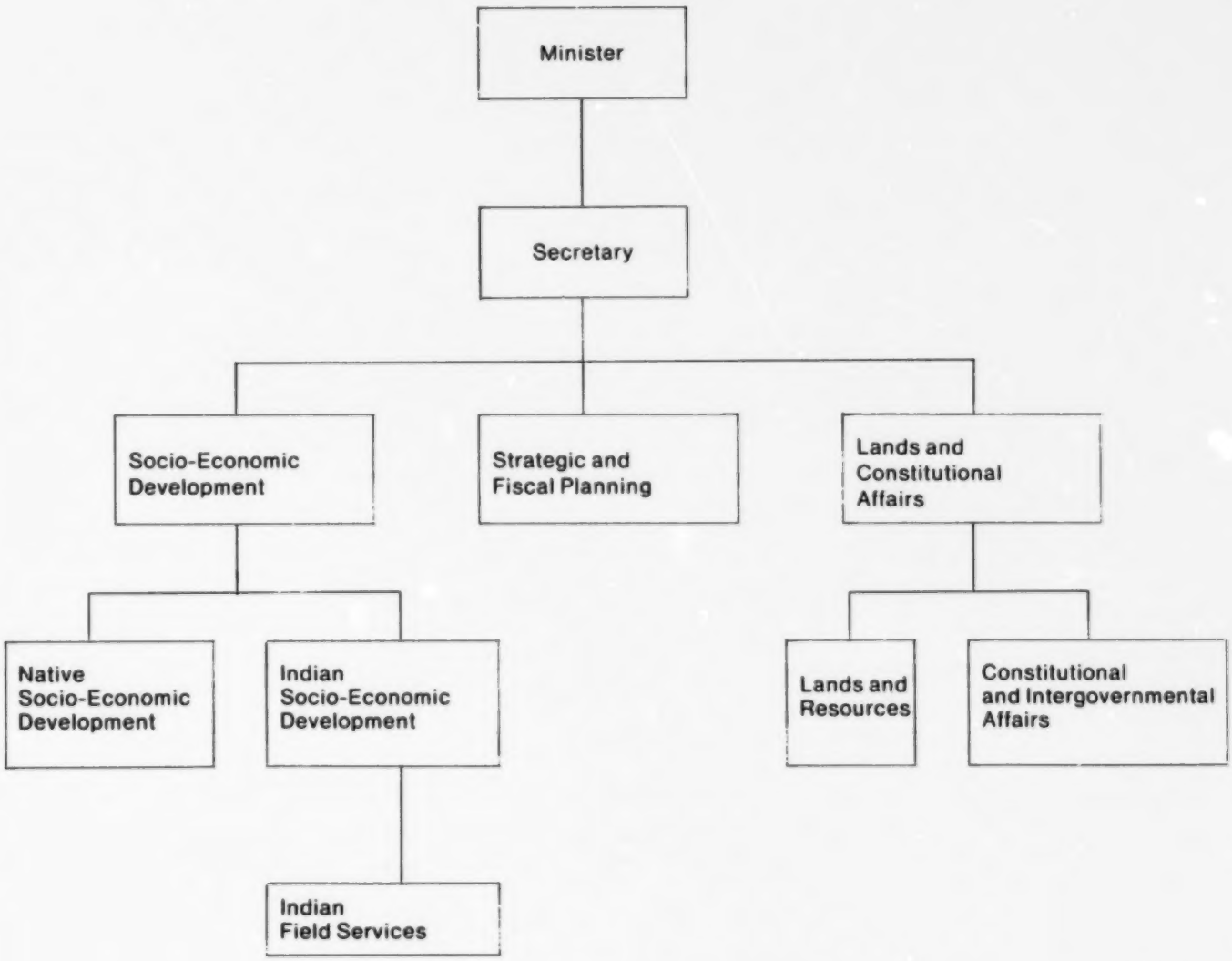
Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat Organization Chart



Role and Structure of the Secretariat

The mandate of the Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat has been prescribed in *The Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat Act.* Under that Act, the Secretariat has:

1. Served as a contact point for aboriginal people within the Government of Saskatchewan.

2. Established social and economic development programs and policies for Indian and Native people.

3. Made recommendations with respect to various matters affecting Indian and Native people.

Aboriginal policy development and coordination have been major parts of the Secretariat's mandate. Line departments, on the other hand, maintain responsibility for specific policy development and the delivery of programs to aboriginal people. By maintaining an overview of these specific departmental policies and initiatives, the Secretariat has been in a position to provide leadership within the government in dealing with aboriginal issues.

Another major function of Indian and Native Affairs is the coordination of departmental budget submissions into a Native package of programs for the government estimates preparation process. This Native package enables the government to ensure that its overall priorities respecting aboriginal programs are met in the budgeting process.

Staff are allocated responsibilities consistent with the main functions of the Secretariat. One unit deals with treaty entitlements, other land issues and the aboriginal constitutional issue, reflecting the Secretariat's mandate in these areas. Other staff have responsibility for the Indian Economic Development Program, Special ARDA and general aboriginal socio-economic issues. In the latter part of the fiscal year, the Native Services Branch of the former Employment Development Agency was integrated into Indian and Native Affairs, increasing further the Secretariat's capacity to address aboriginal employment and economic development concerns. Still other staff within Indian and Native Affairs have responsibility for funding provided to aboriginal organizations and preparation of the Native package.

Effective February 1, 1987, the Secretariat became a part of the new Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment. Within that department, Indian and Native Affairs' mandate has continued largely unchanged.

Introduction

The Province places a high priority on economic development and diversification. This thrust is consistent with frequently expressed ambitions of Indian and Metis people to be economically self-sufficient. Indian and Metis economic institutions and businesses contribute to financial growth at the community level and the Province as a whole. Such growth has been fostered by various provincial government initiatives.

Indian Economic Development Program

Fiscal year 1986-87 represents the fourth year of operation of the provincial Indian Economic Development Program. This program was established to assist Indian people at the community level to become more economically self-sufficient. Through this program, grants are provided as "seed money" to initiate viable businesses for Indian people.

The four major objectives of the program are as follows:

1. To create permanent and meaningful jobs for Indian people which will enable them to participate in and contribute to local economies and the province as a whole.

2. To enable Indian people to become more economically self-sufficient through the establishment of viable businesses controlled and staffed by Indian people.

3. To focus on job creation in only the most viable sectors such as small business, resource development and tourism.

4. To press for a balanced and co-ordinated approach to Indian economic development with other provincial and federal programs.

Administration of the Program

The Saskatchewan Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat has overall administrative and fiscal responsibility for the provincial Indian Economic Development Program. Applications are assessed in terms of viability, funding sources and other information required under the criteria. Applications which meet the criteria are then forwarded to the Indian Advisory Board for review and funding consideration. The Indian Advisory Board was established during the summer of 1984 and consists of representatives appointed by each of the District Chiefs' Councils in the province. Ministerial and/or Order-in-Council approval is required under legislation before grants can be released.

Eligibility

Only status Indian people are eligible for grants under this program. Accordingly, grants can be made to status Indian individuals, Indian bands, districts and Indian economic development institutions. While the program is aimed primarily at business development at the reserve level, status Indian projects in urban centres are also funded.

Role of Federal Government

Although the program directly provides financial support to Indian people in the area of economic development, provincial involvement does not diminish the role of the federal government which has legislative responsibility for status Indian people. Rather, the provincial program serves to complement federal economic development and job creation initiatives in concert with overall economic development priorities and opportunities in Saskatchewan.

Types of Projects

During the 1986-87 fiscal year, 61 grants were disbursed under the provincial Indian Economic Development Program at a total expenditure level of $1,463,296. Twenty-five grants or 49 per cent of the total were in the small business sector including grants for convenience stores, gas bars, arts and crafts, a hardware store, auto wrecking and a marina.

Grants Disbursed Under the Indian Economic Development Program, Saskatchewan, 1986-87

	Number of Projects	Funding	Percentage
Small Business	25	$ 716,232	49.0%
Construction/Industrial	16	$ 348,790	23.8%
Agriculture	8	$ 202,564	13.8%
Studies	10	$ 138,360	9.5%
Manufacturing	2	$ 57,350	3.9%
	61	$1,463,296	100.0%

In the construction and industrial sector, a grant was provided to the Peter Ballantyne Band for the development of a construction company. A similar grant was also made to the Flying Dust Band for expansion of its construction company. Other Indian owned construction companies were also funded involving the Mosquito, Saulteaux, Piapot, Pasqua, Fishing Lake and Keeseekoose Bands.

A manufacturing sector grant was made for a meat processing plant involving the Lac La Ronge Band. In the agriculture sector, grants were disbursed for horticulture, aquaculture and berry picking which had positive impact on increasing employment at the reserve level. A grant was also provided as initial capitalization for the Starblanket Seed Cleaning plant to be located in Melville, Saskatchewan.

The program funded 10 studies which accounted for 9.5 per cent of total expenditure. These studies encompassed feasibility and market analysis as well as development costs related to establishment of actual businesses. One such study involved the Peepeekisis Indian Band's proposal to develop an integrated agricultural/ethanol plant at Balcarres.

Overview

Provincial funding has also served as a catalyst in levering $4.2 million from the federal government, financial institutions and other sources. The 61 projects funded during the fiscal year will create 316 jobs. In addition to job creation, these projects provide a base to train and employ Indian people in the private sector.

Indian Field Services

The mandate and services of the Secretariat is extended directly at the community level through an Indian Field Services Unit. Field offices are located in Saskatoon, Fort Qu'Appelle, Kamsack, Prince Albert, North Battleford and Meadow Lake.

The Indian field officers serve an essential role in the delivery of the provincial Indian Economic Development Program. Field officers receive business applications and assess their viability under established program criteria. Consultation is also undertaken with financial institutions and other government agencies to secure funding commitments for business proposals. Field officers are also responsible for the monitoring and follow-up of projects which have received provincial funding under the program.

In addition to economic development, field officers have an important liaison role with Indian people at the provincial, district, band and individual level on a wide range of issues such as health services, child care, hunting and fishing rights, etc. Field officers also provide information on new provincial programs and services.

Special Agricultural and Rural Development Agreement (Special ARDA)

The final year in the 1984-1987 Special ARDA was successfully completed resulting in 240 small businesses, 71 agricultural and 18 training related projects. Special ARDA has assisted people of Indian ancestry to access financing and business counselling while promoting viable business and resource development.

The program was implemented by the provincial departments of Tourism and Small Business, Agriculture and the Employment Development Agency. The Saskatchewan Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat co-chairs the Special ARDA Advisory Committee with the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion. The advisory committee consists of six Indian and Metis and six federal and provincial government representatives. The role of the advisory committee was to recommend project decisions to the respective federal and provincial ministers and ensure that the program is sensitive to Indian and Metis needs.

Special ARDA is one mechanism for encouraging Indian and Metis people to undertake viable business and resource development creating long term business development, and generating employment and capital.

Constitutional Affairs

On March 26 and 27, 1987, the fourth and final constitutionally-prescribed First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Constitutional Matters was convened in Ottawa. At the Conference, which focused on the issue of aboriginal self-goverment, Saskatchewan continued its support for an accord/amendment combining a political commitment to negotiate self-government agreements with a mechanism to entrench those agreements in the Constitution. There was not sufficient agreement at the Conference on any one proposal, however, to allow the adoption of a self-government amendment.

In the year preceding the conference, Saskatchewan participated actively in tripartite discussions with the Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan and the federal government on matters relating to Metis and non-status Indian self-government within the Province of Saskatchewan. A senior officials' umbrella Tripartite Negotiating Committee along with working groups met monthly to address the six agenda items agreed to by the parties in January 1986.

The Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat co-ordinated the involvement of Saskatchewan government departments in the tripartite discussion process. Officials' level management of both the tripartite process and Saskatchewan's participation in the aboriginal constitutional process was accomplished through an Executive Management Committee consisting of representatives from the Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat, the Intergovernmental Affairs Branch of Executive Council and the Department of Justice.

Lands and Resources

Treaty Land Entitlement

Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat has the lead provincial role in dealing with Indian treaty land entitlement. Under the terms of the treaties, bands are entitled to reserve land on a per capita basis, but the full allotments were not provided in many cases. The province has a legal obligation under section 10 of the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, to provide unoccupied crown land to satisfy treaty land entitlement. By policy, Saskatchewan has agreed to make occupied lands available for entitlement purposes if third party interests can be reasonably satisfied.

During the 1986-87 fiscal year, Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat took a number of steps to address outstanding land entitlement policy issues. In April 1986, the province sponsored a meeting with entitlement chiefs. Draft federal/provincial land selection criteria were presented for the chiefs' consideration at that time. A response from the chiefs, which will contribute to further discussion, was tabled in early 1987. In addition, the province has had other discussions with the federal government on bilateral land entitlement issues and has undertaken internal policy development work in conjunction with relevant Saskatchewan Government departments.

On a band-by-band basis, Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat has been actively involved in negotiations relating to specific priority land entitlement selections. It is the government's objective in these negotiations to fulfill land entitlement obligations and to contribute to Indian band economic self-sufficiency.

Resource and Land Use Issues

Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat co-ordinates provincial government activity on a wide range of other land and land use issues involving Indian and Metis people. In 1986, surface title to the 2,860 acre Lebret Metis Farm was transferred to the Lebret Farm Land Foundation representing area Metis and non-status Indian people. Subsequent operation of the Farm by the Foundation has made a contribution to Native socio-economic development, a major goal originally leading to the transfer.

Through the 1986-87 fiscal year, Indian and Native Affairs Secretariat has had a number of discussions with bands and the federal government on land issues apart from treaty entitlements. These include concerns related to fishing, trapping and water use. A number of specific Indian land claims, arising from factors other than unfulfilled treaty obligations, have also been addressed.